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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

BULGARIAN FORESTS IN POOR CONDITION;
ALBANIAN TIMBER OUTPUT EXPANDS

The present condition of Bulgarian forests is not good because of capitalistic exploitation of forests in the past without any reforestation, conversion of extensive wooded areas in mountainous and semimountainous regions into farmland, forest fires, the creation of pastures, and intensive cattle grazing.

Of the total forest area, 28 percent, or 10,122,000 decarees, consists of barren and inundated land.

The extensive and continuous exploitation of the forests in the past is most obvious in the mountainous regions of southwestern Bulgaria, Kyustendil, Trun, Breznik, Radomir, and Sliven okoliyas, as well as on the southern slopes of Stara Planina, the eastern Rhodope Mountains, and the banks of the Struma and Mesta rivers, where many floods occur.

During the past 6 years, floods have destroyed and buried 2,526 bridges, 110 kilometers of roads, and 2,917 buildings. During the last 2 years flood damage has amounted to 1.1 billion leva.

The cutting of forests and the consequent increase of stripped land has brought about a large decrease in the water volume of Bulgarian rivers, thereby hampering irrigation of farmland.

About 5 million decares of deteriorated forests and flooded and deserted lands, will regain their productivity through forestation. Future forestation will include mountain forests containing 3,500,000 decares of devastated forests and barren lands. A network of conservation zones will be built in Dobrudzha on an area of about 240,000 decares and will protect about 6 million decares of farmland from dry winds. Fast-growing trees of various species with high productive capacity are scheduled to be planted. This can be done on hundreds

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of thousands of decares of land in the Danube Basin and in the basins of the larger inland rivers. Poplar trees, mainly the Canadian poplar; acacia trees, and cultivated willow are preferred. Tens of thousands of decares of land will be preserved through forestation from being devastated and covered by dunes at the Black Sea coastline.

About 1,200,000 decares of forest on stripped and inundated land were planted with trees from 1885 to 1944. In 1947, the forestation program covered 174,929 decares of land; in 1948, 234,743 decares; in 1949, 220,000 decares; and in 1950, 363,340 decares. This makes a total of 1,083,000 [sic] decares. As a result of planned forestation during recent years, thousands of decares of barren land are now covered with young trees.

The principal forestation projects are to be completed within 20-30 years. The 10 million decares of inundated, waste, and unutilized land in Bulgaria are slated to be utilized in the production of economic wealth.

ALBANIAN LUMBER OUTPUT UP IN 1950 -- Berlin, Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 17 Feb 51

As the result of the increased mechanization of sawmills, the output of the Albanian lumber industry in 1950 was twice that of 1948.

Since the beginning of the Two-Year Plan, 16 large sawmills have been built. A lumber and plywood combine is to be established in Elbasan, and wood impregnation plants in Puke and Korce.

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